



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 19, 2011

### **H.R. 2484** **Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research** **and Control Amendments Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
on July 28, 2011*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2484 would reauthorize and modify the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$20.7 million annually over the 2012-2015 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to mitigate the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia (reduced oxygen level) in certain bodies of water.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$79 million over the 2012-2016 period and \$4 million after 2016. Enacting H.R. 2484 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 2484 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2484 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2012- 2016
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	21	21	21	21	0	83
Estimated Outlays	13	18	20	20	7	79
Note: Amounts do not sum to totals because of rounding.						

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of 2011 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA and EPA activities.

H.R. 2484 would authorize the appropriation of \$18 million a year over the 2012-2015 period for certain NOAA activities related to mitigating the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Those activities include providing grants, conducting research, preparing reports, and overseeing an interagency task force.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$2.7 million a year over the 2012-2015 period for EPA to assist NOAA in conducting related activities, including expanding an existing electronic clearinghouse and developing protocols for coordinating intergovernmental efforts related to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$79 million over the 2012-2016 period and \$4 million after 2016.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 2484 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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